



INDIANA COMMISSION
for
HIGHER EDUCATION

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Forensic Science Degree Approved: Major Step to Position Indiana for Regional Center

This fall, IUPUI will begin enrolling students in a new bachelor's degree in Forensic and Investigative Science, the first such degree to be offered by an Indiana university. This degree is part of a larger effort to attract a federally funded regional forensic science center to Indiana.

With the Commission for Higher Education's approval of the degree earlier today, Governor Joe Kernan said, "Indiana is accelerating its efforts to focus on science and technology as a strategic foundation for more jobs and research dollars."

IUPUI's new bachelor's program will prepare students for positions in a variety of settings, including law enforcement agencies, corporations, and hospital and private forensics labs. The heavily science-based interdisciplinary curriculum includes an internship with the Indiana State Police or Marion County crime lab and a moot court experience in which law students and forensic students present evidence in a simulated court setting.

"This degree will tie together unique campus and off-campus resources to make IUPUI's program an exceptionally strong and high profile contribution to Indiana's life sciences initiative," IUPUI Chancellor Bantz stated.

Additional resources are being harnessed to position Indiana as a competitive frontrunner to become home to a federally funded regional forensic science center. Six regional centers exist, but none is located in the Midwest.

Securing a regional center requires Congressional authorization and could mean substantial on-going funding from the National Institute of Justice. Governor Kernan is lending his support to a partnership aimed at accomplishing this goal, which includes the universities, the private sector, law enforcement, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.

Examples of how Indiana is becoming well positioned in this area include the anticipated addition of a new Purdue University program in forensic science, which is expected to have connections with Purdue's new Homeland Security Institute; the state being home to the Institute for Forensic Imaging (IFI), a not-for-profit corporation with a national profile that trains forensic investigators in the use of imaging technology, consults with individual investigators and their organizations, provides expert testimony relative to technology, and conducts applied research; and previous collaboration with imaging projects between IFI and the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division, another key player with technical expertise and industrial capacity, to help expand Indiana's presence in forensic science.

Commission Chairman P. A. Mack said, "We believe that approving IUPUI's degree in forensic science is a key step in Indiana's economic growth."